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Lackawanna Awarded \$300,000 EPA Brownfield Assessment and Cleanup Grant

Funding supports ongoing efforts to redevelop brownfield land from the city's storied industrial past

Lackawanna, N.Y. – The City of Lackawanna has been awarded a \$300,000 Brownfield Assessment and Cleanup Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Lackawanna was among eight municipalities in New York State to receive this EPA grant.

“The City of Lackawanna is proud to be among the recipients of a 2021 US EPA Brownfield Assessment and Cleanup Grant, continuing our city’s long and productive working partnership with the EPA,” said Lackawanna Mayor Annette Iafallo. “This funding provides additional valuable resources in support of our ongoing efforts to redevelop brownfield land associated with our city’s storied industrial past, which is a vital component of our larger strategic plan for attracting new private development investments, more jobs and broader financial and community benefits to Lackawanna.”

Grants awarded by EPA’s Brownfields Program provide communities across the country with an opportunity to transform contaminated sites into community assets that attract jobs and achieve broader economic development outcomes while taking advantage of existing infrastructure. This new funding from the EPA will be used by Lackawanna to perform up to 25 site assessments on former industrial and other lands within the city limits, particularly those in the city’s First Ward along the eastern end of Route 5 and along Ridge Road; all approximately a mile from the former Bethlehem Steel complex, where the city continues to be an active partner with New York State and Erie County governments to remediate and redevelop over 150 acres on the former steel plant site.

“The end of heavy industry in Lackawanna left both a legacy of world-class multi-modal transportation infrastructure and thousands of acres of environmentally impacted property,” said Lackawanna Director of Development Richard Stanton. “The resources brought by this grant award, and our strong working relationships with the US EPA and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, will help us pinpoint environmental issues on these former industrial sites and strategically reconnect them with the legacy infrastructure - leveraging New York State’s as-of-right Brownfield Tax Credits - in an economically and environmentally sustainable manner for decades to come.”

The City of Lackawanna’s site assessment work related to this grant is scheduled to begin later this year and continue into 2022.

The City of Lackawanna is a culturally diverse city of nearly 18,000 located on the shores of Lake Erie, just south of the City of Buffalo. Lackawanna offers attractive economic development options for new and expanding businesses, including those associated with partnership efforts to redevelop the former Bethlehem Steel site as a commerce park for clean manufacturing, distribution as well as city-owned and private land parcels – all conveniently located near long established and easily accessible to the NYS Thruway, rail and port infrastructures. Lackawanna is home to Our Lady of Victory Basilica, a national shrine, which is within walking distance of the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens and Olmstead-designed South Park. For more information visit www.lackawannany.gov